

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 296266

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:MAR

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTONJR.

S/S:AWOTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 296266

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, IS, US

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. YOU SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH KHADDAM, IF HE HAS RECOVERED SUFFICIENTLY TO DEAL WITH OFFICIAL BUSINESS, OR IF NOT WITH MOST APPROPRIATE SYRIAN OFFICIAL, TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ABOUT OUR CONTACTS REGARDING THE SOUTHERN LEBANON SECURITY SITUATION:

-- WE CONVEYED TO THE ISRAELIS THE POSITION EXPLAINED BY SARKIS IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH LANE ON NOVEMBER 29 (STATE 292957). THE ISRAELIS HAVE INFORMED US, HOWEVER, THAT THEY REMAIN OPPOSED TO THE ENTRY INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON OF ANY NON-LEBANESE MILITARY FORCES, EVEN ON THE LIMITED SCALE DESIRED BY SARKIS.

-- LANE WILL BE CONVEYING TO SARKIS THE EXPLANATION OF THE SECRET

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ISRAELI POSITION GIVEN TO US. LANE WILL SAY THAT WE DO NOT

TAKE A POSITION ON THE ISRAELI ATTITUDE BUT THAT WE
RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE REAL TO THEM. THEREFORE,
WE WILL CONTINUE OUR CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THE
PROBLEMS SARKIS FACES IN ASSERTING HIS AUTHORITY IN THE
SOUTH, AND .

WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE RESTRAINT UPON THE ISRAELIS.
LANE WILL POINT OUT TO SARKIS, HOWEVER, THAT IN ALL CANDOR
WE CANNOT HOLD OUT ANY HOPE THAT AN EARLY CHANGE IN THE
ISRAELI VIEWPOINT WILL OCCUR, AND THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF
SUCH A CHANGE WE WOULD HAVE TO ASSUME THAT SOUTHWARD
MOVEMENT OF ARAB SECURITY FORCE ELEMENTS WOULD BRING THE
RISK OF DESTABILIZATION.

-- ANY VIEWS THAT THE SYRIANS MAY HAVE IN THE LIGHT OF
THESE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE WELCOMED. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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